

Appendix B.
Archaeological Records Search



Appendices

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McKenna et al.

History/Archaeology/Historic Architecture/Paleontology

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THE PLANNING CENTER
Attn: JoAnn Hadfield
1580 Metro Drive
Costa Mesa, California 92626

RE: Seashore Village, Orange County, California.

Ms. Hadfield:

In response to your request, McKenna et al. completed a standard archaeological records check through the California State University, Fullerton, South Central Coastal Information Center. We also completed a limited amount of research through the Orange County Assessor's Office and confirmed the date of construction for the existing complex at 5515 River Avenue, Newport Beach (APN 424-471-03).

Assessor Data:

The County Assessor data identified the existing building as a multi-family complex on an irregularly shaped parcel of 63,597 square feet. The initial construction was completed in 1972, rendering the building modern and of no historical significance. A formal evaluation of the structure is not required, given the relative age of only 35 years. Supporting documentation is attached.

Archaeological Records Check:

The proposed project area is located at 5515 River Avenue, Newport Beach, and can be seen on the attached maps and aerial photograph. The property is located between River Avenue Seashore Drive and west of Neptune Avenue. The Assessor data shows the property as consisting of 1.46 acres.

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The archaeological records check was designed to address the project area and a one mile radius around the project area. Because of the proximity of the property to the Pacific Ocean frontage, the research emphasized areas to the north, east, and south of the project area. Research identified a minimum of twenty-six projects within one mile, including the following:

Archaeological Associates (1978)
Archaeological Planning Collaborative (1979)
Archaeological Resource Management Corporation (1981 and 1983)
Billat (2007)
Bissell (2000)
Boxt and Barretta (1992)
Demcak (2002)
Drover and Smith (1999 and 2000)
Langenwalter and Brock (1985)
Larry Seeman Associates, Inc. (1981)
Leonard (1975a and b)
LSA (1983a and b)
Padon (2001)
Padon and Breece (1989)
Pettus (1991)
Romani (1982a and b)
Scientific Resource Surveys (1978a-c)
Scientific Resource Surveys (1979)
Steele (1982)

None of these studies involved the current project area and none are adjacent to the project area. The nearest studies are those of Pettus (1991), involving a portion of the Pacific Ocean to the southwest of the project area, and Drover and Smith (1999), addressing the Newport Banning Ranch. Smaller surveys have been completed within one quarter mile, but all to the north/northeast of Pacific Coast Highway.

As a result of the studies cited above, a minimum of eleven archaeological sites have been recorded within one mile of the project area, including:

CA-ORA-59 thru 72 (Pilling 1949; Nelson n.d.)
CA-ORA-60 (Nelson n.d.)
CA-ORA-357 (Elliott 1973)

CA-ORA-148 (McKinney 1964; Smith et al. 1998)
CA-ORA-843 (Murray 1979; Smith et al. 1998)
CA-ORA-844 (Murray 1979; Smith et al. 1998)
CA-ORA-1599 (Smith et al. 1998)
CA-ORA-1600 (Smith et al. 1998)
CA-ORA-1601 (Smith et al. 1998)
CA-ORA-1602 (Smith et al. 1998)
CA-ORA-1610 (Smith et al. 1998)

All of these sites are located north of Pacific Coast Highway and none will be impacted by any project within the current study area. The nearest sites are CA-ORA-148, and CA-ORA-1599 thru CA-ORA-1602, all of which cluster north of Pacific Coast Highway and approximately one quarter mile north of the current project area. Each of these sites was identified as being of prehistoric origin. These sites are all small and none are expected to extent into or even near the current study area. The project area and surrounding properties were developed without the benefit of an archaeological investigation and, therefore, no data is available to ascertain the general level of sensitivity for similar resources to be present. Nonetheless, the Newport Beach coastal area is generally considered sensitive for prehistoric archaeological resources, especially in areas between the Santa Ana River and Newport Bay. Therefore, despite earlier disturbances, the project area should be considered moderately sensitive for prehistoric archaeological resources.

A review of historic maps (USGS Santa Ana Quadrangles of 1896 and 1901, rev. 1945) illustrated the presence of the Southern Pacific Smeltzer Branch Railroad alignment passing relatively close to the project area (ca. 1901-1945), but long gone by the time the 1965 USGS Newport Beach Quadrangle was prepared. Evidence of the historic railroad alignment may be identified within or near the current project area and, therefore, the area should be considered moderately sensitive for historic archaeological resources.

Summary:

The Seashore Village project area has not been previously surveyed for cultural resources and the existing structure dates to 1972, rendering it a modern resource. Research showed that there is a moderate level of sensitivity for both prehistoric and historic archaeological resources. Although the property is currently developed, evidence of prehistoric use of the area may still be present in a buried context. To insure accurate and adequate identification of any such resources, McKenna et al. would recommend that any project that involves the demolition of the existing structure include an archaeological monitoring program.

Demolition of the existing building does not need to be monitored. However, once demolition is completed to ground level, an archaeological monitor should be on-site to oversee any ground disturbing activities that may yield evidence of buried resources. If evidence of such resources is identified, a Native American monitor or Gabrielino (or Juaneno) descent should be added to the overall monitoring program.

The monitoring program should include provisions for handling any human remains that are determined to be of prehistoric or Native American origin, including notification of the Orange County Coroner and the Native American Heritage Commission, Sacramento.

The extent and duration of the monitoring program can be determined in consultation between the project proponent, the City of Newport Beach, the archaeological consultant, and the local Native American representative (to be determined at a later date).

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This document was prepared by Jeanette A. McKenna, Principal Investigator for McKenna et al. Any questions should be directed to the author at (562) 696-3852 or (562) 693-1305.

Jeanette A. McKenna, Principal Investigator

Date

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